

Long Term Care Managed Care Program is Undergoing Changes (FlexCare, WeberMACS, and Molina Independence Care Programs)

The Long Term Care Managed Care Program, also known as the FlexCare, WeberMACS, and Molina Independence Care Programs, is undergoing some important changes.

The Long Term Care Managed Care (LTC-MC) Program was originally started by Utah Medicaid in 1999 as a demonstration project. The purpose of the demonstration was to show that eligible Medicaid recipients could successfully be deinstitutionalized by providing an array of long term care services in home and community-based settings.

Utah received authorization to run the LTC-MC Program from our federal Medicaid partners, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Originally, CMS granted Utah permission to run the program under combination 1915 (a) and (b) authority. CMS recently concluded that in order to operate the program on an ongoing basis, Utah needed to make some changes to the program's design. As such, Utah Medicaid has been working with CMS to develop a program CMS will authorize and support on an ongoing basis.

The new program that has been developed to replace the LTC-MC Program will be called ***The New Choices Waiver***. This waiver is a 1915 (c) Home and Community-Based Waiver Program that provides services on a fee-for-service basis rather than under a managed care arrangement.

In addition to the New Choices Waiver, Utah currently runs five other 1915 (c) Home and Community-Based Waivers: Waiver for Individuals 65 or older (Aging Waiver), Waiver for Individuals with Acquired Brain Injuries (ABI Waiver), Waiver for Individuals with Mental Retardation and Related Conditions (MR/RC Waiver), Waiver for Individuals with Physical Disabilities (PD Waiver), and Waiver for Individuals who are Technology Dependant (Tech Dependent or Travis C. Waiver).

Early in 2007, the Medicaid agency will be working with participants currently on the LTC-MC Program to help them convert to the New Choices Waiver. After current participants have been admitted into the New Choices Waiver, new applicants will be admitted during the Spring of 2007.

The Medicaid agency is in the process of meeting with a variety of provider and consumer groups to explain the changes that lie ahead, the services included in the New Choices Waiver, and the need for new service providers for the Waiver.

Providers interested in becoming New Choices Waiver providers, or those with additional questions about the Waiver, may contact Kathleen Bowman, Medicaid Long Term Care Bureau, either by phone: (801)-538-6497 or by Email: newchoiceswaiver@utah.gov.